# Executive Proclamation
## State of South Dakota
## Office of the Governor

***Whereas***, June typically marks the start of summer recreation in South Dakota – the weather gets warmer, kids start summer vacation, and families gather to spend time together; and,

***Whereas***, A connection with nature is an essential component of our physical well-being—time outside combats obesity and diabetes, reduces stress levels, and decreases symptoms of Attention Deficit Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; and,

***Whereas***, For the first time in our country's history, we potentially have an entire generation growing up disconnected from nature, which makes outdoor recreation awareness especially important for our children; and,

***Whereas***, South Dakota is blessed with a rich outdoor heritage and an abundance of local, state, and federal parks; and,

***Whereas***, Across the state, countless opportunities for outdoor activities are available, from fishing for walleye in a Northeast glacial lake, to kayaking on the Missouri River, to hiking amidst the beauty and wildlife found only in Custer State Park; and,

***Whereas***, Outdoor activities are a time-honored tradition in South Dakota, with the knowledge of the perfect way to bait a hook, set up a tent, and build a campfire passed down from countless generations; and,

***Whereas***, Families can introduce youngsters to the wonders of the outdoors through several special events this month, including celebrations for National Trails Day, National Get Outdoors Day, National Boating and Fishing Week, the Great American Backyard Campout, and South Dakota's very own Outdoor Expo; and,

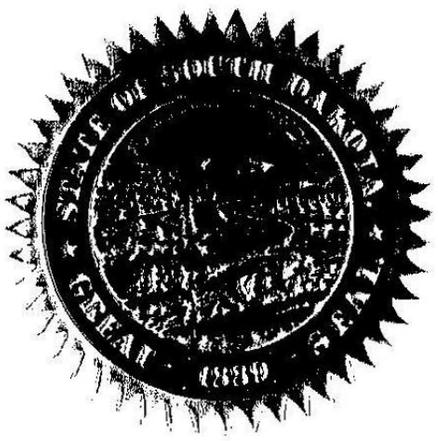
***Whereas***, No matter where you are, there are ample opportunities to discover nature—in our parks, in our yards, in flower boxes, and in the cracks of the sidewalk; and,

***Whereas***, South Dakotans are responsible for creating a legacy for our children and our grandchildren, a legacy that needs to include a love of the outdoors:

***Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds***, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim June 2009 as

## GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

in South Dakota, and I encourage citizens to make the outdoors a daily part of our children's lives—exercising, turning over rocks, cooking outdoors, catching a fish, and experiencing a whole other world right in our own backyards.




***In Witness Whereof***, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eighth Day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

**Attest:**

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State